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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 87

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

SAMUEL F. VIGIL

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY
THE FEASIBILITY OF INCLUDING A COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT FACTOR
IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA.

WHEREAS, the concept of a cost-of-living factor in the
distribution of public school funds is not new among state
school funding systems, and six states currently adjust for cost
differentials in their school districts; and

WHEREAS, living costs vary throughout New Mexico because
New Mexico's eighty-nine school districts are located in
isolated rural settings, populous urban communities and small-
to medium-sized communities throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, numerous models can be devised to evaluate the
cost of living in various communities; and

WHEREAS, there are no available cost-of-living data for the

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1 state's eighty-nine school districts that would allow the easy
2 calculation of an objective, verifiable factor for incorporation
3 into the public school funding formula; and

4 WHEREAS, many people believe that the cost of living in a
5 community can be a barrier to attracting, hiring and retaining
6 quality teachers, thus creating a major obstacle to providing
7 students a high quality education; and

8 WHEREAS, the effect of providing a cost-of-living factor in
9 some urban areas may make it difficult to attract and retain
10 teachers in rural isolated areas because high-cost-of-living
11 areas can pay higher salaries and offer amenities to their
12 teachers and other school personnel; and

13 WHEREAS, other variables that exist, such as the
14 availability of medical and other services, desirability of
15 location and conditions of employment, affect a district's
16 ability to attract and retain quality personnel;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
18 STATE OF NEW MEXICO request the legislative education study
19 committee, in cooperation with the state department of public
20 education and school districts, to perform or contract for a
21 comprehensive study to determine the relationship between higher
22 living costs and the specific costs of education; to examine the
23 various issues and costs that affect a school district's ability
24 to attract and retain quality teachers and school personnel; to
25 determine if there are cost-of-living differences that result in

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1 differences in a district's resources to educate its students;
2 to establish a database comparing school district expenditures
3 and to conduct a cost survey that includes questions about food,
4 consumer durables, medical costs, insurance, housing and other
5 variables relative to all geographic areas in the state that may
6 provide information to determine living costs; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study examine the ways in
8 which such data can be collected and updated on a regular basis
9 and the costs associated with such collection; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study be completed by
11 November 1, 1997 and that the legislative education study
12 committee submit its report and recommendations to the second
13 session of the forty-third legislature; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the director of the legislative education study
16 committee staff for appropriate distribution.

State of New Mexico House of Representatives

**FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997**

March 14, 1997

Mr. Speaker:

Your EDUCATION COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 87

**has had it under consideration and reports same with
recommendation that it DO PASS, and thence referred to the
APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE.**

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel F. Vigil, Chairman

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FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997

HEC/HJM 87

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Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 10 For 0 Against

Yes: 10

Excused: Mallory, McSherry, Nicely

Absent: None

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State of New Mexico House of Representatives

**FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997**

March 18, 1997

Mr. Speaker:

**Your APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE, to
whom has been referred**

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 87

**has had it under consideration and reports same with
recommendation that it DO PASS.**

Respectfully submitted,

Max Coll, Chairman

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**FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1997**

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Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 13 For 0 Against

Yes: 13

Excused: Buffett, Garcia, M H. , Salazar, Townsend

Absent: None

M \HJ087

Underscored material = new
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